



# **Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks**

1400 South 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Bozeman, MT 59718

March 3, 2014

To: Governor's Office, Sheena Wilson, State Capitol, Room 204, P.O. Box 200801, Helena, MT 59620-0801  
Environmental Quality Council, State Capitol, Room 106, P.O. Box 201704, Helena, MT 59620-1704  
Dept. of Environmental Quality, Metcalf Building, P.O. Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901  
Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation, P.O. Box 201601, Helena, MT 59620-1601  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks:  
Director's Office      Parks Division      Lands Section      FWP Commissioners  
Fisheries Division      Legal Unit      Wildlife Division      Design & Construction  
MT Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, P.O. Box 201202, Helena, MT 59620-1202  
MT State Parks Association, P.O. Box 699, Billings, MT 59103  
MT State Library, 1515 E. Sixth Ave., P.O. Box 201800, Helena, MT 59620  
James Jensen, Montana Environmental Information Center, P.O. Box 1184, Helena, MT 59624  
Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon Council, P.O. Box 595, Helena, MT 59624  
George Ochenski, P.O. Box 689, Helena, MT 59624  
Jerry DiMarco, P.O. Box 1571, Bozeman, MT 59771  
Montana Wildlife Federation, P.O. Box 1175, Helena, MT 59624  
Wayne Hurst, P.O. Box 728, Libby, MT 59923  
Jack Jones, 3014 Irene St., Butte, MT 59701  
Skyline Sportsmen, PO BOX 173, Butte, MT 59701  
Montana TU, PO Box 7186, Missoula, MT 59807  
George Grant TU, P.O. Box 563, Butte, MT 59702

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) proposes to convey ownership of approximately 0.33-acre (thirty-three hundredths of an acre) of the 35-acre Powerhouse FAS to the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT). This land constitutes less than 1% of the fishing access site, and will be used by MDT as part of the designated right of way for the reconstruction of an existing bridge that spans the Big Hole River between state Highway 43 and the Powerhouse FAS. The land to be conveyed to MDT will not be fenced off, and public use of the slope down to the river will still be allowed. Only a small portion of the conveyed land (approximately one-tenth of an acre adjoining the roadway) will be impacted by the bridge reconstruction activities. The popular boat ramp on the north side of Powerhouse Road will not be affected by the conveyance of this small parcel on the south side of the road.

MDT will compensate FWP for the fair market value of the land. An appraisal has established this value as \$3,000. These funds will be deposited in FWP's real property trust account, a permanent account that generates funds for FWP land management activities.

Based on the Environmental Assessment, public comment, and FWP evaluation, it is my decision to proceed with the preferred action, as described in the Powerhouse Fishing Access Site:  
Proposed Right-of-Way Conveyance Draft Environmental Assessment.

**Comments regarding this decision notice may be:**

**Emailed to:** [rheagney@mt.gov](mailto:rheagney@mt.gov)

**Phoned to:** Ray Heagney at (406) 994-6987

**Or Mailed to:** Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
Region 3, Attn: Ray Heagney  
1400 S. 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Bozeman, MT 59718

Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. J. Flowers', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Patrick J. Flowers  
Region Three Supervisor

Attachment



Region Three  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
1400 South 19<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Bozeman, MT 59718

**Powerhouse Fishing Access Site:  
Proposed Right-of-Way Conveyance  
Draft Environmental Assessment Decision Notice  
March 3, 2014**

**Proposed Action**

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) proposes to convey ownership of approximately 0.33-acre (thirty-three hundredths of an acre) of the 35-acre Powerhouse FAS to the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT). This land constitutes less than 1% of the fishing access site, and will be used by MDT as part of the designated right of way for the reconstruction of an existing bridge that spans the Big Hole River between state Highway 43 and the Powerhouse FAS. The land to be conveyed to MDT will not be fenced off, and public use of the slope down to the river will still be allowed. Only a small portion of the conveyed land (approximately one-tenth of an acre adjoining the roadway) will be impacted by the bridge reconstruction activities. The popular boat ramp on the north side of Powerhouse Road will not be affected by the conveyance of this small parcel on the south side of the road.

MDT will compensate FWP for the fair market value of the land. An appraisal has established this value as \$3,000. These funds will be deposited in FWP's real property trust account, a permanent account that generates funds for FWP land management activities.

**Montana Environmental Policy Act**

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks is required by the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) to assess potential impacts of a proposed action to the human and physical environment. In compliance with MEPA, an Environmental Assessment (EA) was completed for the proposed project by FWP and released for public comment on February 11, 2014.

Public comments on the proposed project were taken from February 11, 2014 through March 3, 2014. The EA was mailed to 42 groups and individuals.

**Summary of Public Comment**

FWP received one public comment supporting the proposed action.

## **Decision**

Based on the Environmental Assessment, public comment, and FWP evaluation, it is my decision to proceed with the preferred action, as described in the Powerhouse Fishing Access Site: Proposed Right-of-Way Conveyance Draft Environmental Assessment.

This preferred alternative allows for the conveyance of ownership of approximately 0.33-acre (thirty-three hundredths of an acre) of the 35-acre Powerhouse FAS to the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT). MDT will compensate FWP for the fair market value of the land. An appraisal has established this value as \$3,000. These funds will be deposited in FWP's real property trust account, a permanent account that generates funds for FWP land management activities.

I have determined that the decision to proceed with the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the natural or human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared. By notification of this Decision notice, the Draft EA is hereby made the final EA. The draft EA with the Decision Notice may be viewed at or obtained from Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks at the address on page 1. This EA is still available for review on FWP's web site (<http://fwp.mt.gov>), under "Recent Public Notices."

If you have any questions regarding this environmental assessment decision notice, please contact Ray Heagney, Region 3 Fishing Access Site Coordinator, at 406-994-6987 or at [rheagney@mt.gov](mailto:rheagney@mt.gov).



---

Patrick J. Flowers  
Region Three Supervisor

---